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MyCity Academy Applications Now Available



The Mayor's Office of New Americans is now accepting applications for MyCity Academy. The first of its kind in the nation, this free program empowers New Americans to understand and participate in Nashville's government. More than twenty countries have been represented so far among MyCity participants.

Over the course of seven months, MyCity participants meet with leaders from Metro departments and tour Metro facilities. In doing so, they gain a better understanding of how their government works and learn how to resolve issues and obtain information.

Upon graduation, MyCity participants are able to help their communities understand and access government services. MyCity graduates also have the opportunity to interact with

New Americans from other communities through their participation in the MyCity alumni network.

The fourth session of MyCity Academy begins in March 2015. Individuals interested in applying should refer to the specific [course information](#) and [apply for MyCity Academy online](#). **Applications are due February 13, 2015.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact newamericans@nashville.gov. Make sure to watch out for more information on Twitter at #MyCityAcademy15!

Mayor's New Americans Advisory Council Welcomes Six New Members

Mayor Dean recently welcomed six new members to his New Americans Advisory Council (MNAAC), which he created in 2009 to help foster a link between Nashville's New American communities and Metro Government. These community leaders will help ensure that MNAAC continues to represent a broad cross-section of Nashville's New American organizations and communities.



MNAAC meets monthly in the Mayor's Office to discuss issues relevant to the New American population and to share ideas with government leaders. Its members have played a key role in developing a number of important Metro initiatives to empower New Americans.

Congratulations to each new member:

- **Jose Gonzalez**, Co-Founder and Finance Director at Conexion Americas
 - **Nawzad Hawrami**, Office Manager at the Salahadeen Center
 - **Dr. Srivatsan Pallavaram**, Vice President of the India Association of Nashville
 - **Yussuf Issa**, Executive Director at the Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee
 - **Delfine Fox**, Health, Human Resources & Diversity Inclusion at DFOX LLC Business, Strategy, Management
 - **Meg Nugent**, Executive Director at the Nashville Adult Literacy Council
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Mayor Signs Executive Order to Help Ensure a Diverse Metro Workforce

Earlier this month, Mayor Dean signed an executive order that will create a Diversity Advisory Committee to help ensure that Metro Government's workforce reflects Nashville's rich diversity.



"The more our workforce reflects the diverse cultures in our community, the better job we do as a local government to provide needed services to our citizens," Mayor Dean said. "We also want our local government to serve as a model for employers in Nashville when it comes to having a diverse workforce."

The Diversity Advisory Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and will develop a plan that will ultimately assist all Metropolitan Government agencies, boards and commissions in their efforts to recruit, hire and retain a workforce that is inclusive and representative of Nashville's local demographics.

New Study Shows that Immigrants Entrepreneurs in Nashville Create Jobs

BRINGING VITALITY TO MAIN STREET

How Immigrant Small
Businesses Help
Local Economies Grow



AS
COA

A new report released this month by Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA) and the Fiscal Policy Institute shows that immigrants in Nashville play an outsize role in Main Street businesses—grocery stores, restaurants, clothing stores and other enterprises that are key to neighborhood growth and vitality.

The report took an in-depth look at immigrant small business ownership, economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in Nashville, and it concluded that immigrants here have helped transform neighborhoods and supported the economic revitalization enjoyed by the city as a whole.

President Obama Visits Nashville



Last month, President Obama visited Nashville to discuss his recent executive actions related to immigration. His visit was a recognition of all we have done as a city to welcome New Americans. As the White House press secretary said, "Nashville is an example of an American city that has done really interesting work to integrate new immigrants to their city in a way that has led to a lot of dynamism in their community and a lot of dynamism in their local economy."

The President held a town-hall meeting for a small group at Casa Azafran, and more than 150 MyCity Academy graduates, New American leaders and others watched via live stream from the Mayor's Office of New Americans-sponsored watch party nearby.

Nashville Joins Cities for Citizenship



Nashville last month joined Cities for Citizenship, a national partnership that works at the local level to reduce barriers to citizenship and to increase citizenship among eligible U.S. residents. By sharing best practices and new initiatives, cities across the United States are collaborating to create more inclusive cities.

Nashville joins New York City, Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Denver, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Washington D.C. in this initiative. Mayor Karl Dean states, "Cities for Citizenship's aims match Nashville's: making it easier for immigrants who are eligible for citizenship to reach that life-changing goal." In Tennessee, 74,000 immigrants are eligible to apply for citizenship, a number that Cities for Citizenships hopes to soon reduce.

Financial Empowerment Center Opens in Donelson

The Nashville Financial Empowerment Center is a joint program between Mayor Dean's Office and the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville. The Financial empowerment center provides free, one-on-one help to all Nashvillians on how to open a bank account, create a budget, improve credit scores, manage debts, and save for the future. Through financial counseling, the center has helped clients to collectively reduce their debt by over \$900,000. A new branch of the Financial Empowerment Center is now open in Donelson. The Donelson center will be open every Friday from 9 am - 3pm at the Donelson Goodwill Career Solutions Center. To make an appointment, call (615) 748-3620 or make an [appointment online](#).



Live
EMPOWERED



Visit the **FREE** Nashville Financial Empowerment Center

Join us at the new Donelson area location and share with friends!

Beginning January 9, 2015,
every Friday from 9am - 3pm
at the
Donelson Goodwill Career Solutions Center
2731 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Call 615.748.3620 to schedule
your next appointment
or visit fec.nashville.gov



The Nashville Financial Empowerment Center is a program of the Office of Mayor Karl Dean in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Nashville.